

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the application.

Rejections under 35 USC 112

Claim 31 is rejected as being indefinite due to the term "local level". The term "local level is now defined as being instruments connected together to a single node of the PSTN. Such a definition is part of the general knowledge of the skilled person who deals with telephone networks, and therefore it is not believed that the addition of such a phrase to the claim adds matter in any way to the application.

Rejections under 35 USC 102

The Examiner rejects claims 1-13, 15, 16, 18-21, 26, 27 and 29 as being anticipated by Wilson, US Patent 6,169,734.

Wilson teaches a specially adapted telephone, that is to say a telephone device with a digital output. The device has a built-in digital connection for connection to a computer for which all adaptation processing is carried out within the body of the telephone. Reference is particularly made to Wilson Col. 4 line 53 where the telephone is described as having an RS232 connection jack. Persons skilled in the art will immediately recognize such a connection as being a digital connection. The telephone of Wilson has an analog connection for connecting to a telephone line and a digital connection for connecting to a computer. The significance is that Wilson uses an especially adapted device. An ordinary off-the shelf telephone is not considered here and would be completely useless, significantly increasing the cost to the end user.

By contrast, the present invention uses an external adapter. The adapter takes the ordinary analog output of a regular telephone and converts between that and the digital signal needed for it to be connected to a computer or a digital network.

The claims have been amended to bring out the feature of the external adapter that connects to a regular analog output of a regular telephone. According to various of the claims the use of such an adapter allows the ordinary analog telephone to work as an Internet phone and also allows the telephone to be controlled or monitored by the powerful software capabilities of the computer, for example allowing the user to set up a conference call. The difficulty of using numeric dialing to obtain Internet or email type addresses is solved either by dialing the full numeric IP address or by using a look up table.

None of these features are taught or even suggested by Wilson. In particular Wilson ["]does not even mention the desirability of using a regular telephone["]. Rather his telephones are all specially adapted dual purpose phones.

Considering the independent claims as amended in more detail, claim 1 teaches an adapter for connecting between the analog connection of an analog telephone and the digital connection of a computer. Wilson does not have an ["]adapter that connects between an analog connection of the telephone and the digital connection of the computer["]. Rather he connects the analog connection of his adapted telephone to the PSTN in the usual way and connects a digital connection to the computer. Thus he fails to teach a use for a regular off-the shelf telephone. *not claimed*

The same comments apply to claims 7 and 13, which also teach an adapter connected between an analog output of an analog telephone and a digital input of a computer or network.

Claim 16 has been amended to teach use of computer software to control an analog telephone via an analog connection. Again this is neither taught nor suggested in Wilson.

Claim 19 concerns the digital telephone switch controller 190 in Fig. 5. This is an autonomous device which is external to the telephone and connects the telephone, the computer, etc. Wilson has at most an internal A-D converter inside his specially adapted telephone. The claim has been amended to distinguish over Wilson and the advantage of such an external device is again that the telephone can be a regular telephone. The suggestion to adapt the system of Wilson to cover a regular telephone is never made. The same remarks apply to claims 22, 27, 29, 31 and 32.

Cancelled Claim 21²⁰⁹ has been amended to make clear that the telephone is not directly connected to the PSTN. Thus the PSTN voltage signal which usually provides the telephone ring is not available to the telephone. Rather this particular telephone is connected to a computer instead. Thus a local voltage generator is provided to replace the PSTN ringing tone. Such a feature is not taught or even suggested in Wilson, who uses the PSTN ringing tone, since the Wilson telephone is connected to the PSTN in the normal way.

The deficiencies of Wilson are not made up by Turock, who also does not teach the direct connection of a regular analog telephone to a digital computer. Rather Turock's system simply uses the Internet to support the PSTN at a level far removed from the user's telephone connection.

The remaining claims are believed to be allowable as being dependent on allowable main claims, and thus the issues raised under USC 103 are not dealt with explicitly.

It is believed that all of the matters raised by the Examiner have been dealt with. No new matter is added by the present amendments. Allowance of the case is respectfully awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Martin J. Moynihan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'J'.

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Date: September 20, 2004